

BRIAN PULIDO'S
Lady Death
THE WILD HUNT

#1



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Thus far In Lady Death

Amidst a harrowing battle between warrior knights and the otherworldly Eldritch, a child is conceived. Blood of both clans, she belongs to neither. Years later, the child, Hope, is reborn as Lady Death.



Lady Death

A year has passed since the events of "A Medieval Tale," where Lady Death aimed a magical cannon at the border-bridge connecting the Eldritch and human lands at the height of the battle between them. She intended to destroy the bridge, but the chaotic explosion has devastated her life in unforeseen ways:

Her mentor, Wolf, is gone.

Enemies have become allies.

Allies have become enemies.



Wolf

Europe is overrun by magic — and the Eldritch, who now rule it.

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NOVGOROD.

1226 A.D.

MOTHER?

YES,
ISABELLE?

WHEN WILL WE SEE
LADY DEATH--I MEAN--
AUNTIE HOPE
AGAIN?

SHH,
CHILD.

BUT I
MISS HER AND
SHE PROMISED SHE
WOULD TAKE ME
TO THE LAKE!

PLEASE
HUSH. YOU
MUST NOT TALK
ABOUT YOUR AUNT.
NO ONE MUST
KNOW WE ARE
RELATED TO
HER.

WHY?

BECAUSE THE
AUTHORITIES
WANT HER.

WHY IS
SHE WANTED?

PLEASE,
ISABELLE, I BEG
YOU, STOP YOUR
QUESTIONS.

WE ARE
CLOSE TO THE
CHURCH.

THEY
MIGHT
HEAR.





ELSEWHERE...

THE WILD
HUNT IS DOUBLING
BACK, LADY DEATH!
OZA RENATCA RETURNS
WITH ASPARAS
ASSASSINS AT
HIS SIDE!

I SEE
THEM, CAI!
CHAR, GET THE
CHILDREN TO
SAFETY!

NIVADA,
GO WITH
HIM!

NOW!

THOUGH WE ARE
ON THE LOSING END OF THE
BATTLE AND THE ODDS OF WINNING
THIS DAY ARE LONG AT BEST-- AND I
PERSONALLY CAN'T STAND THE ODOR
OF THAT WERE-CHILD NIVADA--I SHALL
ENDEAVOR TO DELIVER THE CHILDREN
TO THE QUIET PLAINS--

JUST
GET ON WITH IT,
CHAR!

OKAY.

YOU
CREATURES HAVE
NO SENSE OF
POETRY.



MOVE
OUT!

A HUNDRED
MISTRESSES TO
ANY WHO SELLS A
FREEMAN AND A
THOUSAND TO THE
ONE WHO TAKES
LADY DEATH
HERSELF!

MAY
ASTRAGALUS
SHINE UPON
YOU ALL!



KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE,
CHAR!

WITH PLEASURE, SMALL,
DARK, AND FURRY!

I'M
SCARED!

WORRY NOT.
YOU'RE IN MOST CAPABLE
HANDS. *GREELUM* HANDS!



HOW
DID THEY
FIND US SO
EASILY THIS
TIME?



I DON'T KNOW, BUT
IT BEGS THE QUESTION: IS
THERE A BETRAYER AMONG
THE FREE MEN?

AAAA



GYAAUGH!

THEY SAID
YOU HAD COMMAND
OVER YOUR SPELLS,
BUT I NEVER--

ARE YOU
GOING TO
TALK OR FIGHT,
OZA?!

MY ARM! YOU--

FROZE IT
LONG ENOUGH
TO DIVERT YOUR
ATTENTION
TO DO--

--THIS!

OH!

TVARUS...
I'VE FAILED
YOU.

ASTRAGALUS,
I'M COMING
HOME...



IRON TO
THE HEART.
DEADLY AT THE
SLIGHTEST
TOUCH.



LADY DEATH
HAS SLAIN
OZA!

THAT
SHOULD TAKE
THE FIGHT OUT
OF THEM!

I THINK
NOT.

THE ASPARAS
ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR
FEROCITY--AND THEIR
PERSISTENCE.
OUR ONLY HOPE
LIES ON THE HORIZON.



QUICKLY, LITTLE ONES!

YOU
EXPECT ME
TO GO DOWN
THAT DIRTY
HOLE?

NIVADA, YOU
MAY BE ROYALTY, BUT
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE,
YOU'LL GET DIRTY.

TOAD-SMELLING TROLLS!

WE ARE *GREELUM*,
NOT TROLLS!



THE
SUN SOON
RISES...

RETREAT!



THAT'S
RIGHT, RUN
FROM US!

SUPERSTITION
GOADS THEM,
NOT FEAR.

ALL THE
BORDERLANDS DENIZENS
FEAR THE LIGHT.





THE
VILLAGE!

IT'S IN
RUINS!

OH,
MISTER CHAR,
I'M SORRY

NEVER MIND
ME--WHERE ARE
MASTER GING AND
THE OTHERS?



I DID NOT
KNOW THIS
HAPPENED.

HOW
COULD I BE SO
STUPID?!

I WAS SO
BUSY SAVING ALL
THE OTHERS, BEING
MY HEROIC SELF, I
FORGOT TO SAVE
OUR OWN...



DON'T BE
SAD, MISTER
CHAR.

MAYBE
THEY GOT
AWAY.



REMEMBER
THE SIEGE OF
BULDERGRAD?

IT'S
BURNED INTO MY
MEMORY.

I WATCHED
CAI FIGHT, HIS
ATTACK, HIS
PARRIES...

HIS
FIGHTING STYLE
WAS JUST LIKE HIS
BROTHER'S, LIKE
WOLF'S.

THEY WERE
TWO OF A KIND
FOUGHT LIKE
DOGS.

I LOST
WOLF. NOW
CAI...

VITTORIO?
IS THIS GOD'S PLAN?
IF IT IS~

SHHHHH

YOU MUST
HAVE FAITH, GIRL.
WE'LL TURN THE
TIDE.

HOW?
WE ARE ALWAYS
ON THE RUN. AND
WE'RE TIRED,
VITTORIO.

ADMIT IT~
WE WERE LUCKY
TO RESCUE THOSE
CHILDREN.

COME ON. FORGET
ABOUT BATTLE, IF ONLY
FOR A BIT.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

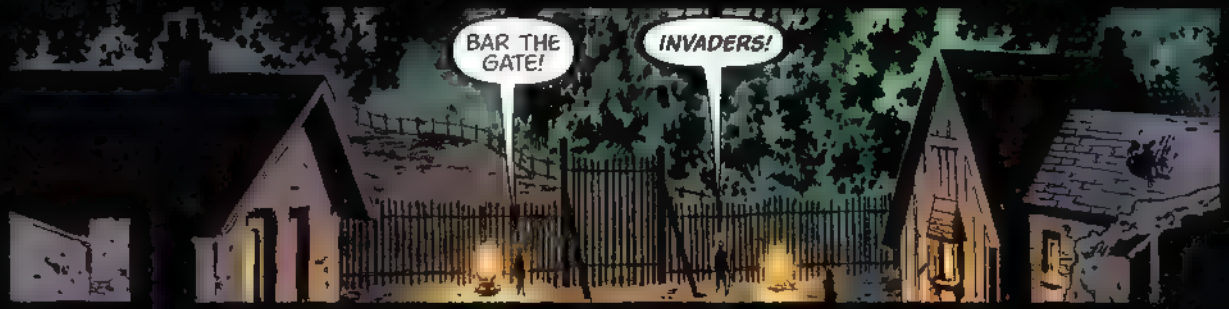
WILL
YOU JOIN
ME?

I...
I CANNOT.

MY HEART
BELONGS TO
ANOTHER.

BELONGS
TO A GHOST,
YOU MEAN.

PERHAPS,
GOODNIGHT,
VITTORIO.



BAR THE GATE!

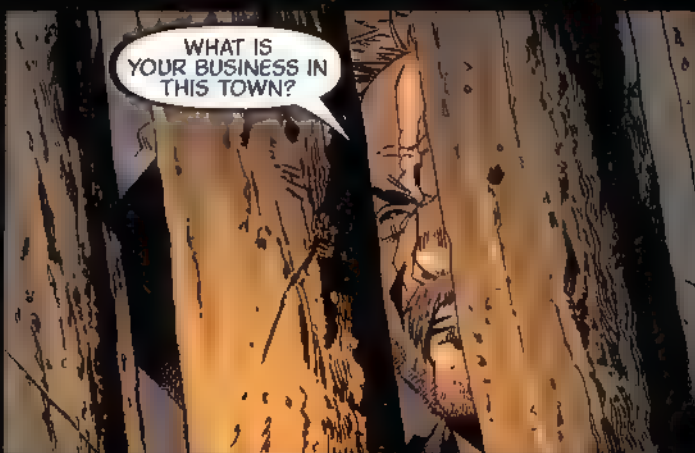
INVADERS!



CAREFUL WITH YOUR HOOD

YES, YES-- CAREFUL SO THEY DON'T SEE MY SKIN AND MISTAKE ME FOR AN ELDRITCH.

HOLD YOUR GROUND!



WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS TOWN?

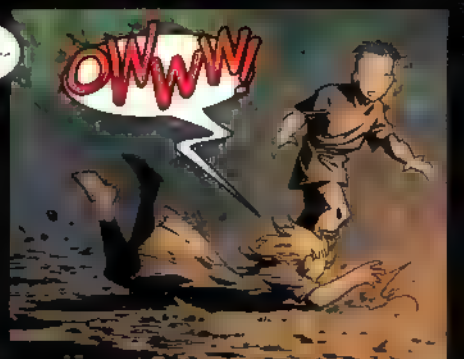


WE'VE LIBERATED YOUR CHILDREN FROM THE ELDRITCH AND WE'RE HERE TO RETURN THEM!

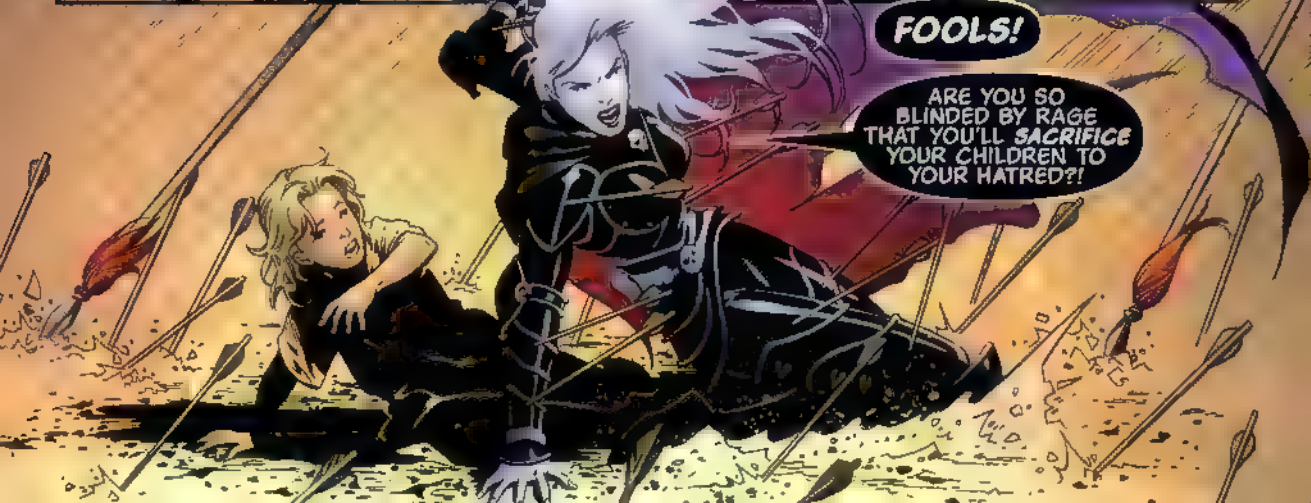
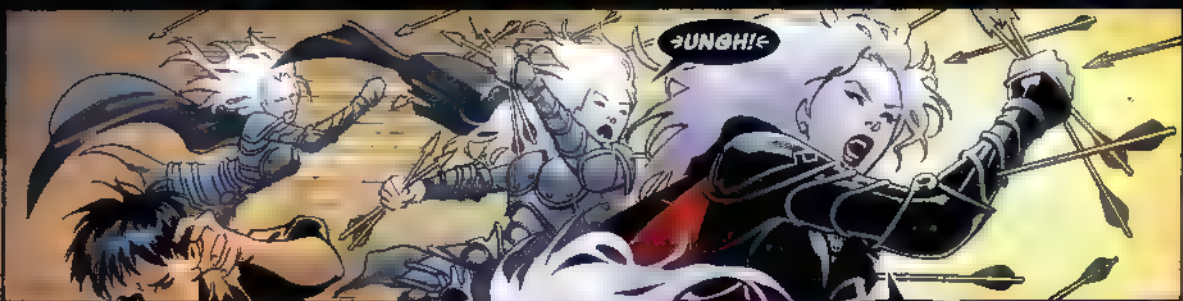
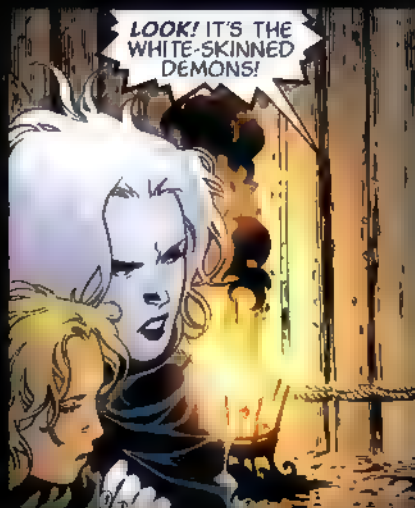
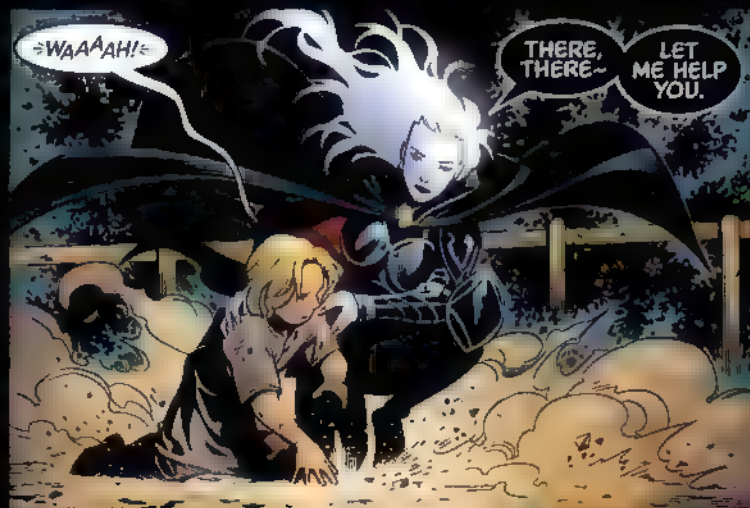
WHA--? PROVE IT!



OPEN THE GATE, STEFAN-- IT'S US!



OWWWW!





HOLD
YOUR FIRE!

I AM
ARCHBISHOP
VITTORIO TEDESCO
ZAMARANO.
I REPRESENT GOD
AND COUNTRY!

WE ARE NOT
ELDRITCH!

WE SIMPLY
WANT TO RETURN
YOUR CHILDREN
TO YOU!



IT IS THE
ARCHBISHOP.

DON'T TRUST
HIM! HE'S UNDER
A SPELL!

DON'T COME
ANY CLOSER,
YOU HEAR
ME?

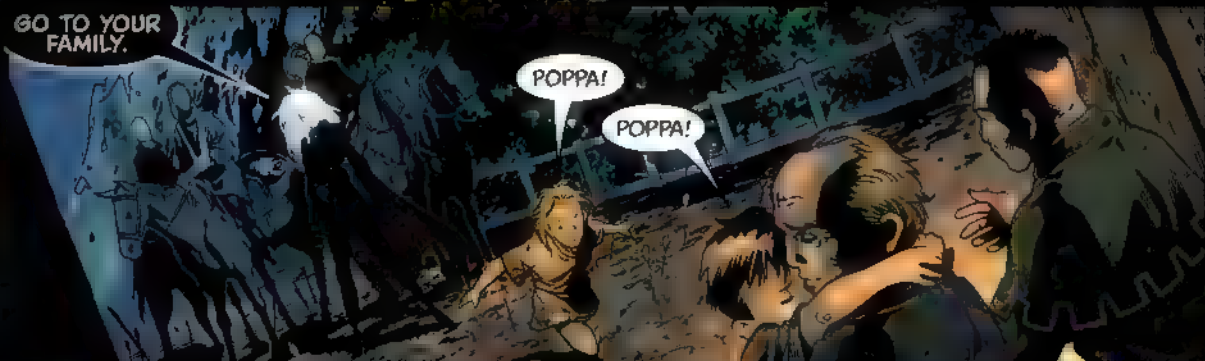
SEND THE
CHILDREN OUT,
ONE AT A TIME!



THANK YOU,
LADY DEAR--ER,
MISS HOPE.

YOU'RE WELCOME,
CLAIRE.

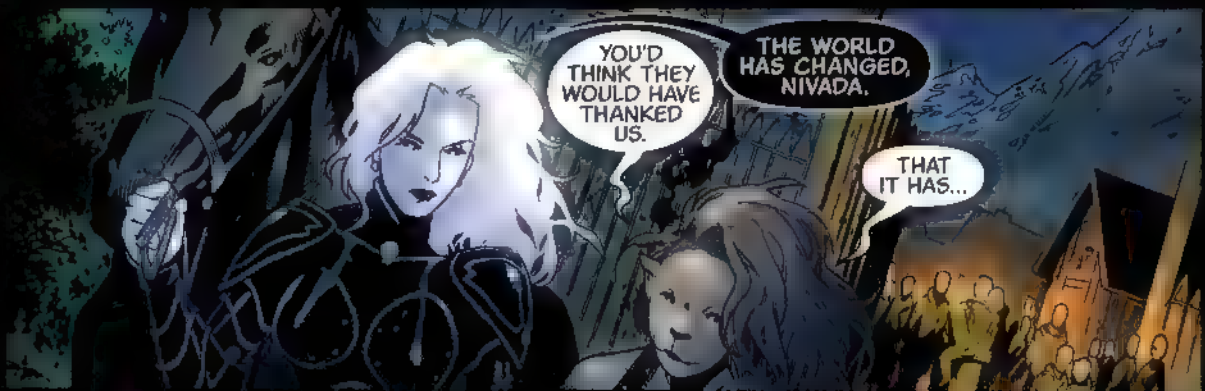
GO NOW.



GO TO YOUR
FAMILY.

POPPA!

POPPA!



YOU'D
THINK THEY
WOULD HAVE
THANKED
US.

THE WORLD
HAS CHANGED,
NIVADA.

THAT
IT HAS...

1 YEAR AGO

NEAR THE BORDER-BRIDGE IN AGLAROND,
THE REALM OF THE NEAR-IMMORTAL ELDRITCH

AMIDST THE BATTLE
BETWEEN HUMAN
AND ELDRITCH.

WOLF,
PLEASE!

TALK
TO ME!

FATHER!

HOW
COULD YOU
DO THIS?!

DAMN
YOU!

I CAME
TO SAVE
YOU!

BUT ALL YOU CARE
ABOUT IS WAR!

DEATH!

DESTRUCTION!

IS THAT WHAT YOU
WANT, FATHER?

THEN THAT'S
WHAT YOU'LL
GET!

THE ELDritch CANNON BLAST
WAS FELT ON BOTH SIDES OF
THE BORDER-BRIDGE.



BUT THE HUMAN VILLAGES
BORE THE IMPACT IN
INCONCEIVABLE WAYS--



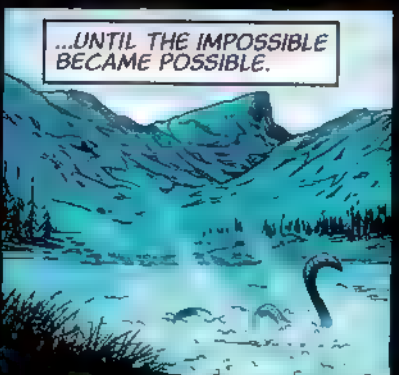
MAGIC WAS UNLEASHED
UPON THE LAND.



THE LAWS OF NATURE
ITSELF TWISTED.



...UNTIL THE IMPOSSIBLE
BECAME POSSIBLE.



THE BORDER BRIDGE? IT WASN'T DESTROYED--
IT BECAME BIGGER, MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER!

FUELED BY THEIR NEWFOUND
LUCK, CONVINCED THIS WAS
FATE ACTING ON THEIR BEHALF,
THE ELDRITCH, LED BY TVARUS,
STORMED THE HUMAN KINGDOMS.

TVARUS, SHOWING UNPARALLELED SAVAGERY,
LAY SIEGE TO VILLAGE AFTER VILLAGE, QUICKLY
ESTABLISHING A MERCILESS GRIP ON MANKIND.

"LADY DEATH AND
HER FREE MEN
CONTINUE TO
EVADE US?"



YES, LORD TVARUS.

WE WERE HINDERED BY DAYLIGHT.

AND, LORD?

YES?

OZA RENATCA HAS FALLEN AT LADY DEATH'S HANDS

OZA IS LOST?



LEAVE ME.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR.

SHE IS THE WILD CARD, YOUR DAUGHTER? YOU CAN CONTROL EVERYTHING, BUT YOU CAN'T CONTROL HER.

THAT IS WHY YOU ARE OBSESSED WITH HER~

YOU FEAR HER



NONSENSE. WE CONTROL MOST OF THE HUMAN KINGDOM OF EUROPE.

SOON WE MOVE ON THE THRONE OF POWER~ THE VATICAN.

WHEN WE CRUSH IT, WE CRUSH THEIR SPIRITS.

TVARUS, I'VE BEEN MEDITATING FOR HOURS.

COMMUNING WITH CROWS. LISTENING TO BLADES OF GRASS.

THERE IS SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG. REALITY ITSELF IS UNRAVELING

THE ELDRITCH MUST LEAVE THIS REALM. THE BORDER-BRIDGE MUST BE RESTORED.



SILENCE, SEER, OR I WILL HAVE YOUR EYES!

REALLY, TVARUS?

IS THAT ANY WAY TO SPEAK TO YOUR MOTHER?!



I MUST
SEE MY UNCLE
AT ONCE

OF
COURSE,
SIR



SARRITAR,
IT IS A PLEASURE
TO WELCOME YOU..
TO *CHURCH*.

HAVE YOU EVER
STOPPED TO PONDER
HOW EASY IT IS FOR YOU TO
ENTER THIS HUMAN HOUSE OF
WORSHIP? AS A CHILD, YOU
FEARED THESE PLACES.
WE ALL DID.

YOU SHOWED
US WE HAD NOTHING
TO BE FRIGHTENED OF,
LORD TVARUS.

YES.
NOTHING TO
FEAR.



LORD,
I BRING
YOU A GIFT
TO AID YOUR
CAUSE



WHAT
IS IT, PRAY
TELL?

GUARDS!



MEET
MARGRET AND
ISABELLE.

LADY
DEATH'S
LAST LIVING
RELATIVES!

SPLENDID
WORK,
SARRITAR.

I'M
SCARED,
MOMMY!

I'M
SCARED!



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THE WILD HUNT



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#2 June
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Lady Death



Tvarus



Char

Amidst a harrowing battle between warrior knights and the otherworldly Eldritch, a child is conceived. Blood of both clans, she belongs to neither. Years later, the child, Hope, is reborn as Lady Death.

A year has passed since the events of "A Medieval Tale," where Lady Death aimed a magical cannon at the border-bridge connecting the Eldritch and human lands at the height of the battle between them.

The Free Men (Lady Death, Char of the Greelium, Archbishop Vittorio, Nivada, and Pelagrim the Eldritch) have evaded the Eldritch for over a year, but they suffer a terrible loss when their fellow rebel Cai is slain. In the Eldritch war room, The enigmatic Seer reveals that reality itself is unraveling and the border-bridge must be restored. Her plea goes unheard by her son, Tvarus, the leader of the Eldritch. He is distracted by his pleasure in the news that they have captured Margret and Isabelle, Lady Death's last remaining relatives...

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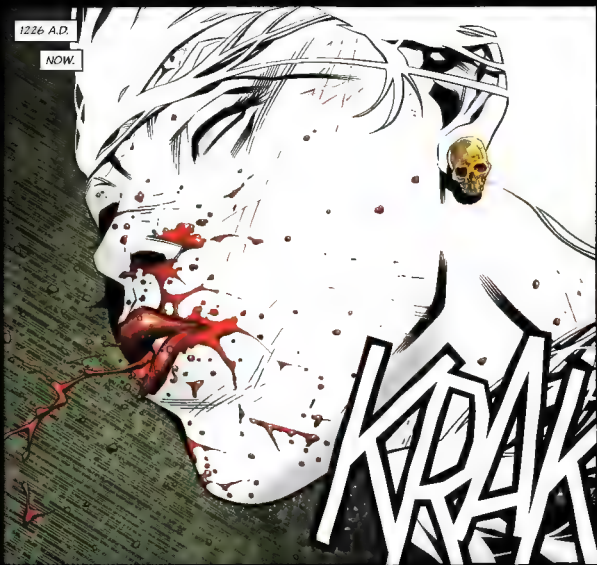
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1226 A.D.

NOW.





KRAK

WHUMP

-UGH-

WELL?
ARE YOU
READY TO LIE
DOWN AND
DIE, HOPE?

FINISH
HER!

OR SHALL
WE CONTINUE THIS
CHARADE?
BETTER YET,
I'LL OFFER YOU
ONE FINAL CHANCE
TO JOIN ME.

FATHER,
YOU JUST DON'T
GET IT—



NO
MEANS
NO!

ONE WEEK
AGO

YOU
MUST BE
MAD!

TVARUS
HAS OFFERED
A PEACEABLE
TRUCE.



THERE
CAN BE NO
PEACE WITH THE
ELDRITCH. HOPE.
THEY MEAN TO
EXTERMINATE
US!

THEY ARE
A DUPLICITIOUS LOT.
HE MAY OFFER PEACE,
INTENDING ONLY TO
WAGE WAR--

WORD
HAS COME UP
FROM--

YES,
YES--

SLUNK
SLUNK



THAT'S
WHY WE PLAN
FOR THAT.



THEY WILL
ANTICIPATE OUR
ATTACK--

AND
WE PLAN FOR
THAT AS WELL,
VITTORIO.



STOP ARGUING!
LISTEN! WORD
HAS COME UP
FROM THE
REBELLION--

THE ELDRITCH
WILL STORM
THE VATICAN
IN A FORT-
NIGHT.

BUT THIS
COULD BE A
RUSE...

DO
WE LET
THIS DETER
US FROM
STOPPING
THEM?

ENOUGH
TALK!

I WILL
GO MEET WITH
MY FATHER!

HOPE!
CALM
YOURSELF!

HEY
DEATH LADY,
WHILE WE ALL
APPRECIATED YOUR
DRAMATIC DISPLAY
OF FEROCITY, YOU'VE
JUST WASTED A
PERFECTLY GOOD
ROUND OF ALE
AND SPIRITS.

A TRAGIC
CIRCUMSTANCE

YER BUYIN
THE NEXT ROUND!

WHAT?!!
YOU MUST BE
MAD!

NINE DAYS
AGO

MAD?

PROTOMOSCUS,
YOU MAY BE AN ELDER, BUT
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO MIND
YOUR TONGUE

BUT, TVARUS--
TO OFFER THEM A
TRUCE--

WE ARE NOT
HERE TO MAKE PEACE
WITH THE HUMAN VERMIN.

BESIDES,
YOUR...DAUGHTER AND HER
FREE MEN WON'T HAVE IT!

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

THAT'S
WHY WE PLAN
FOR THAT

THEY WILL
ANTICIPATE OUR
ATTACK.

AND
WE PLAN
FOR THAT
AS WELL.

LORD,
WORD HAS
LEAKED TO THE
REBELLION.

THEY KNOW
THE ELDRITCH
WILL STORM THE
VATICAN

AND HOW WAS
THIS INFORMATION
TRANSMITTED?

A TRAITOROUS
NOBLICT SLAVE GAVE
THEM WARNING.

I TRUST
YOU'VE DEALT
WITH THIS
INDISCRETION?

WE
INCINERATED IT
AND ITS ENTIRE
FAMILY

WELL
DONE

HOW

WHY DO
YOU DEFEY
ME?

I HAVE
ONLY YOUR
BEST INTERESTS
AT HEART

YOU HAVE
A WARPED WAY
OF SHOWING IT,
FATHER.

ERGHHHH!

KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE.

CHING

I WON'T
HESITATE TO
KILL YOU...

...AND YOUR KIND
DOESN'T TAKE WELL
TO COLD IRON.

PROUD
BOASTS!

I SENSE
YOUR HEART
IS AFUTTER,
DEAR. YOU'RE
AFRAID.

YOU MAY
BE TRAINED IN
THE WARRIOR WAYS
OF MAN, BUT
SPELLS?

YOU'RE
LOST, UNGUIDED,
UNDISCIPLINED.

I CAN'T
REMEMBER A
MORNING I HAVEN'T
WOKEN UP AND
WISHED YOU
DEAD.

WHEN
DOES IT END,
FATHER?

WHEN DO
YOU WAKE UP AND
REMEMBER THE MAN
YOU USED TO BE?

I AM
BLDRITCH, THE
CREATURE YOU KNEW,
HELD IN SWAY BY HIS PETTY
ROMANTIC NOTIONS.
IS GONE!

THEN I
FEEL NO
GUILT FOR
WHAT I
MUST
DO.

RRRAAA!

THIS MORNING



AS I
SAID, THIS
TUNNEL
LEADS TO--

UGRK!

LOOK!
IT'S-- IT'S--
HORRENDOUS!

CHAR,
I'M SO SORRY
ABOUT YOUR
PEOPLE.

I SHOULD HAVE
BEEN HERE TO
PROTECT THEM

HOPE,
THIS--I HESITATE
TO CALL IT A PLAN--
OF YOURS *ISN'T* A
GOOD IDEA

CHAR,
I HAVE TO
GO.

IF YOU
THINK TVARUS
HAS ANY HUMANITY
LEFT, YOU'RE
MISTAKEN

IT'S NOT
THAT.

THEN
WHY GO?

JUST
STICK TO
YOUR PART
OF THE
BARGAIN.

NOW WE
BOTH HAVE
MUCH TO
AVENGE.





SO, DAUGHTER--
YOU'RE WONDERING
WHY I SUMMONED
YOU HERE?

THE
THOUGHT HAS
CROSSED MY
MIND.

YOU
COULDN'T
RESIST COMING.
COULD YOU?

GET
ON WITH IT,
FATHER.

I'VE
GROWN TIRED
OF YOUR
GAMES.

I WANT YOU
TO JOIN US.
JOIN ME, BY
MY SIDE

YOU ARE AN
UNPARALLELED
WARRIOR. YOU
EMBODY THE
BEST OF BOTH
WORLDS

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I'M
HEARING
THIS!

YOU'VE SPENT THE
BETTER PART OF A
YEAR HUNTING ME--
WHY THE SUDDEN
TURNABOUT?

I...
MISS
YOU.

YOU HAVE
THE STRENGTH AND SAVVY
OF A HUMAN AND THE SPEED
AND CUNNING OF AN ELDRITCH

PLEASE!
YOU TRIED TO
KILL ME AT THE
BORDER-
BRIDGE!

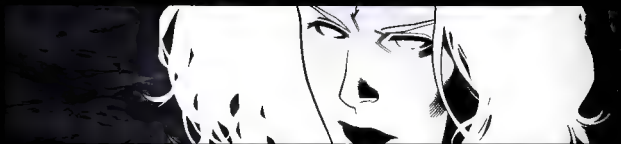
YOU
KILLED
WOLF!

IT GOT
WHAT ALL HUMANS
DESERVE.

THEY
ARE NOT
LIKE US

THEY ARE
VERMIN.

JOIN ME.
HOPE-TOGETHER
WE WILL MAKE THIS
WORLD A BETTER
PLACE.





PERHAPS
YOU RECOGNIZE
YOUR AUNT MARGRET
AND NIECE
ISABELLE?

AUNTIE HOPE!
AUNTIE HOPE! THERE'S
AN ICKY BUG IN-

HOPE, I'M
SORRY YOU
HAVE COME
HERE.

THEY
MEAN US ALL
HARM! GO--

SILENCE,
ANIMAL!

I BEG YOU
TO RECONSIDER, MY
DAUGHTER.

IF YOU
DON'T, THERE WILL BE
CONSEQUENCES.

FREE THEM.
FATHER.

KEEP
THIS
BETWEEN
US.



BEFORE
YOU CONSIDER ANYTHING
RASH, PLEASE KNOW THAT YOUR
AUNT AND NIECE HARBOR VERY
NASTY CREATURES CALLED
SORMS IN THEIR EARS.

ANY MOVE TO
LIBERATE THEM WILL
RESULT IN THE SORMS
DIGGING INTO THEIR
BRAINS

NOW,
WHAT SAY
YOU?

I-I-I



KREE-SCH

GET THE GIRLS!

THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE SORMS!

CONSIDER IT DONE, CHAR! THOSE COWARDS ALWAYS USE SORMS, SO WE'VE COME PREPARED WITH EETLES!

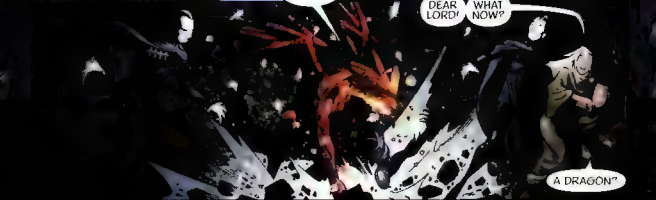
IT'S A FEAST FOR EETLES! SORMS ARE A DELICACY TO THEM! AS EVER, THERE IS NO OUTTHINKING THE CRAFTY GREELUM!

EERGH!

MY EARS!

GET OUT!

GOT IT!



LADIES

DEAR LORD!

WHAT NOW?

A DRAGON?



COME WITH ME

NO, PLEASE! HELP!

I'M SCARED MOMMA!



DON'T BE FRIGHTENED-- I'M A FRIEND OF HOPE'S

I'M ON YOUR SIDE

ERGH!

UHHH - LADIES HOLD ON

TIGHT

DRAGON?!
ARE YOU
CONSCIOUS?

DRAGON?
DRAGON?

DEAR
LORD!

ISABELLE,
SWEETIE,
CLOSE YOUR
EYES

YOU!

YOU DID
THIS!

YOU
PLANNED
IT!

I AM
MY FATHER'S
DAUGHTER. I
KNEW YOU HAD
SOMETHING TO
LORD OVER
ME.

SWORD.
TO ME
NOW.

CHING!

PERHAPS
THE ELDERS
WERE
RIGHT.

YOU
NEED TO
DIE



HOPE!

DRAGON!
TURN AROUND!
CATCH HER!

I HAVE MY
ORDERS. I'M GETTING
YOU TO SAFETY.

NO!



IF I
DIE, YOU'LL
BE THERE BY
MY SIDE!



**TASTE
IRON!**



YOU
HAVE YOUR
MOTHER'S
FIRE, HOPE, I'LL
GRANT YOU
THAT--



--BUT
YOU LACK
HER COMMON
SENSE.







I BROUGHT YOU HERE, IN PART, TO ASSESS YOUR COMMAND OF YOUR MAGICAL ABILITIES FIRSTHAND.

YOU HAVE PROGRESSED, AND WITH LITTLE OR NO ACCESS TO OUR ANCIENT TEXTS AND SCROLLS.

YOU ARE TRULY REMARKABLE, HOPE, BUT YOU ARE INELEGANT. AN UNTRAINED ANIMAL. A FERAL PET...

...AND THE TIME FOR PLAY HAS ENDED.



DO YOU FEEL THE AIR THINNING?

DO YOU FEEL PRESSURE AGAINST YOUR RIBS, YOUR LUNGS?

THAT IS BECAUSE THE ELEMENTS ARE MINE TO COMMAND.



BID FARWELL TO YOUR TRUSTED SWORD, OR, SHALL I SAY, YOUR SECURITY BLANKET.



»HHKH!«

»HHK!«



IT IS A MISCONCEPTION TO BELIEVE YOU DIED THAT DAY BY THE POND.

YOU NEVER DIED.

YOU HAD A SPARK OF LIFE LEFT WITHIN YOU.

I SIMPLY REKINDLED IT.



SINCE YOU'VE LEFT ME WITH NO CHOICE, I NOW TAKE THAT SPARK AWAY.



»«



BRIAN PULIDO'S

Lady Death

#3

Next Issue:

UNBROKEN

THE WILD HUNT